Tourism Promotion Council

4350. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Tourism Promotion Corporation/ Council in the Centre and State Capitals/Union Territories in order to use vast tourism potential and encourage foreign tourists;

(b)if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are already Tourism Development Corporations such as India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) and State Tourism Development Corporations for development of tourism at the National/State and U.T. levels.

PR Services for Picasso exhibition

4351. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entrusted the Picasso exhibition publicity work to Integral PR Services for four months; and

(b) if so, what is the rationale in spending lakhs of rupees in hiring a private public relations agency to handle the publicity of the exhibition in India when Government have their own Information Department for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Information in this regard is being collected and would be placed at the table of the House.

Development of new tourist sites in Gujarat

4352. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new tourism sites have been identified in the State of Gujarat during the last three years;